

Lead Line

*A Newsletter for Childhood
Lead Poisoning Prevention Professionals*



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

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DPH Announces Agency-wide Reorganization:

CLPPP and LEMU Now One

By Ana Chambers, MPH, CHES, Health
Education Coordinator, Childhood Lead Unit

Recently, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., announced an agency-wide reorganization. This reorganization has resulted in a more efficient, customer-service oriented department. Among the many programs affected by the reorganization, CLPPP and LEMU are now under one section.

The new organization places all lead-related functions under the Regulatory Services Branch, Environmental Health Section. Our new name is the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program (LPPCP). LPPCP includes the Environmental Lead Unit (formerly LEMU) and the Childhood Lead Unit (formerly CLPPP). Additionally, a separate unit, the Environmental Practitioner Licensure Unit, administers licenses and training of environmental health practitioners. These include lead abatement and consulting personnel.

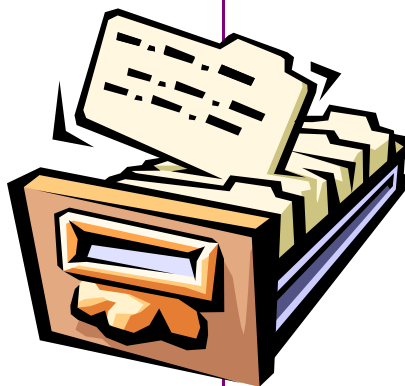
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Case Management Update

By Eileen Boulay, R.N., Program Supervisor, Childhood Lead Unit

Targeting Refugees

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have requested that CLPP Programs throughout the nation intensify surveillance of Refugee and Asylum children entering the United States to ensure they receive baseline and follow-up blood lead testing. Their increased concern is partially a result of the death of a refugee child that resettled in New Hampshire in 2000. The baseline test is performed to determine if they were exposed in their country, and follow-up testing is necessary to ensure they are not being lead poisoned or further exposed once they reach the United States. Refugee children could face an increased risk of lead poisoning when they arrive, as they may be malnourished or suffer from anemia, and may be placed in low-income homes with less than ideal housing conditions. The LPPCP Childhood Lead Unit has been working to identify these children as they arrive in Connecticut, mainly into Hartford, Bridgeport, and New Haven, to ensure that they receive a baseline lead screening, and a three to six month follow-up lead test. For more information regarding the risks to the refugee population, visit www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm.



Case Management Documents

A case management record has been developed and implemented in local health departments that receive funding for lead poisoning prevention. This tool was written as

a guidance document to ensure that each child receives individualized case management. The document will be distributed statewide in the near future to serve as a tool for all local health departments, regardless of size, to guide them through the necessary steps during an investigation when a child is identified with lead poisoning. There is a short form that larger health departments may choose to use in place of the longer protocol as long as pertinent narrative documentation is also used for individual notes. The case management team also faxes the child case report to local health departments when a new case is identified. This effort ensures that local health is in receipt of the laboratory report and serves as a quality assurance effort for accurate laboratory reporting. LPPCP has been charged with ensuring that all new cases of lead poisoning are followed-up. To that end, a response is requested from local health via a form that can be faxed with the requested updates or a phone call. The case management team is trying to streamline all interactions and appreciates timely responses. The Childhood Lead Unit is here to assist all local health departments with new staff training, specific training in STELLAR, and to support local programs.

Environmental Update—2005 Keep It Clean Campaign

By Mark Aschenbach, Environmental Analyst, Environmental Lead Unit

The Keep It Clean (KIC) Campaign is a regional effort throughout New England that is dedicated to eliminating lead poisoning in children and adults as the result of home improvement projects. The campaign is implemented through local hardware and paint stores. By educating the consumer through customer interaction, the KIC message, "working in a lead safe manner when renovating or repainting the home" can be spread.

The 2005 Keep It Clean Campaign kicked off April 1st with 87 local health departments encompassing 143 towns participating. Many of the local health departments have partnered with paint and hardware retailers to help spread the KIC message. To date 125 stores have signed up for this year's campaign. The DPH LPPCP web page links to all stores that participate in the campaign.



Additionally, this year's program highlights feature distribution of the KIC and "Healthy Homes" brochures from town building departments and public libraries. The New London KIC program, headed by Brian Testut, advertised the campaign as a public service announcement on a local radio station in April and May. The Hartford Health Department partnered with a local Wal-Mart to sponsor a one day kick off event. "These other venues allow for additional outlets for the KIC educational information to reach both the general public and contractors" states Mark Aschenbach, Connecticut's KIC program coordinator.

Lead-Safe training consultants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the KIC campaign and obtain copies of the KIC brochure by calling the Environmental Lead Unit at (860) 509-7299.

Surveillance Update

By Justin Peng, M.P.H., Surveillance Coordinator, Childhood Lead Unit



The Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program (LPPCP) implemented a new enhanced surveillance system known as the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program system (or "CLPPP" system) in October 2004. The program operated under dual-surveillance systems until it retired the old surveillance system in March 2005. The CLPPP system allows for better case management, cleaner data, and the ability to match with Medicaid enrollment data. LPPCP has been working with the Department of Social Services to identify Medicaid enrollees who were screened (or not) for lead. Statistics on the 2004 by town report of lead screening in Connecticut is projected to be completed in the fall of 2005.

Agency Wide Reorganization

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We also have several new staff persons that have joined our program in the past several months. Please join us in welcoming Ann Kloter, Michelle McCullen-Green, Rhonda Pales, and Tracy Hung.

Ann Kloter MPH joined the LPPCP staff in September 2004 as a Case Manager for the Childhood Lead Unit (CLU). She received a MPH degree from Yale University and her prior work experiences were as a site coordinator and data manager for foreign and domestic clinical research trials. She also worked as a counselor at an HIV testing site and as a field epidemiologist for the state of Louisiana.

Michelle McCullen-Green B.A. joins our LPPCP team as a Case Manager after working four years as the CLPP Lead Inspector/ Risk Assessor / Case Manager for Uncas Health District (Norwich/Montville). Michelle brings her local health department experience and perspective to the State DPH LPPCP. Michelle will be partnering with Mark Aschenbach to cover the eastern part of CT and looks forward to assisting local health departments in that region.

Rhonda Pales B.A. is the new Health Services Worker for the LPPCP. She began working for the department in mid-April. Before working for the State of Connecticut,

she graduated from Lafayette College in 2001 where she was a double major in Art; concentration in Therapy, and Philosophy. After graduating from Lafayette, she began working for the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation in 2001 until transferring to the Department of Public Health. Her duties include secretarial support and program support for the program.



Tracy Hung M.H.S, CLS(C) is a certified Clinical Laboratory Scientist who joined the LPPCP as the Data Manager in April 2005. She received her Master's Degree in Epidemiology from the School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. Before joining the lead program, she worked as a statistician for HealthEast Care System where she assisted with hospital infection surveillance and the Minneapolis

Medical Research Foundation in Minnesota and was responsible for data analysis for the United States Renal Disease Data Center. She was also responsible for quality assurance of biochemistry tests at an academic epidemiological laboratory in Taiwan. She brings over 7 years of experience in data quality assurance, management, and analysis. In addition to data management duties, she also serves as the laboratory contact to ensure adherence by laboratories in blood lead test reporting.

Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program Staff



Left to right, front row: Tracy Hung, Ann Kloter, Nakesha Scrivens, Eileen Boulay
Left to right, second row: Ana Chambers, Michelle McCullen-Green, Krista Veneziano, Rhonda Pales, Al Buzzetti
Left to right, last row: Justin Peng, Sharon Sharp, Mark Aschenbach

Staff Contact Information

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Health Education Update

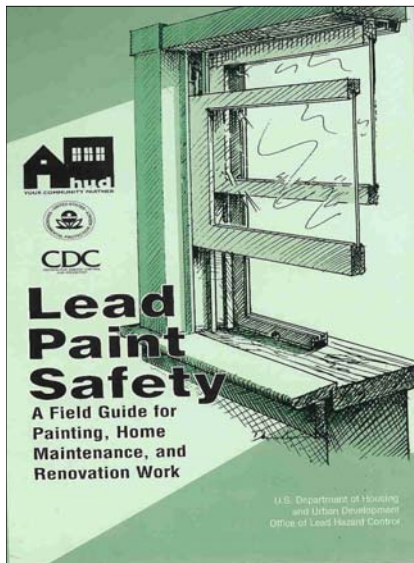
By Ana Chambers, MPH, CHES, Health Education Coordinator, Childhood Lead Unit

Save the Date: The LPPCP Semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 22, 1-4 p.m. A location and agenda items will be forwarded later this summer.

Video Project: The LPPCP will be developing a new video to target do-it-yourself homeowners and contractors doing residential work. Release of the video is slated for the fall.

Promotional items: We have some new materials for use by local health departments. An updated materials catalog, order form, and samples will be available at the September 22 meeting.

Training Announcements



Lead Paint Safety
Hands-on-Workshop
Learn Simple Techniques for Dealing with Lead
Paint in Your Residential Property

*Developed Specifically for Property
Owners and Tenants*

For more information contact:

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***LeadLine is a publication of the Connecticut Department of Public Health,
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***Commissioner, J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.
Branch Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, Ellen Blaschinski, RS, MBA***

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